The Prydonian Renegade

The newsletter of The Prydonians of Prynceton
Volume Four, Number Twelve
March 1988

Club Stuff

Club Celebrates Fourth Birthday March 26

We will be celebrating our Fourth Birthday with a big party on Saturday, March 26, from 7 pm to whenever. The party will be held at the Huntington Park Clubhouse in Belle Mead, New Jersey. This is right off Route 206, about six miles south of Somerville, New Jersey. We'd like to thank Steve Lesnik for arranging the use of the Clubhouse. For information, call Steve at 201-874-5837 or Tom Beck at 609-921-8148. We hope to arrange rides, and public transportation may be available.

Directions are as follows:

From north of Belle Mead, head south on 206 from Somerville. Look for the following landmarks: Consumer Lumber will be on the left; continue south. K-Mart will be on your right; continue south. You'll pass Charlie Brown's on the left and a 7-11 on the right; continue south. At the intersection of 206 and Amwell Road, you'll see the DeCanto

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Assembly Sked

The Assembly schedule is as follows:

March: Saturday, March 5
April: Saturday, April 2
May: Saturday, May 7
June: Saturday, June 4

All Assemblies are at the Lawrenceville Library in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, from noon to 4 pm. Contributions of food and drink are always welcome. For information, directions, or a ride, call 609-921-8148.

New Jersey Network to Show All McCoy Episodes in March, April

New Jersey Network, as we reported last month, will be showing all four episodes of Doctor Who starring Sylvester McCoy as the Seventh Doctor, starting Saturday, March 12. That night, they will rerun "Time and the Rani," which they first aired on January 9. The following three Saturdays, they will show the rest of McCoy's stories. "Paradise Towers" will show March 19, "Delta and the Bannermen" on March 26, and "Dragonfire" on April 2. This episode will introduce Sophie Aldred as the new Companion, Ace. All the stories will air at 9 pm. NJN will be the first station in the US to show the latter three episodes. Build high for happiness!

Club Works Channel 12 on March 12

We will be working a fundraiser at Channel 12, WHYY in Philadelphia, on Saturday, March 12, from 2:30 pm to six. We would like as many volunteers as possible to come answer the phones. If you've never worked a fundraiser, now's your chance! It's a lot of fun, and it helps both WHYY and the club. Channel 12 is easy to get to. To volunteer, call Barbara Teichert. Her home number is 215-688-5638; her work number (noon to five) is 215-898-6791.

See you there!

Members, Library Suffer Loss in Theft

The club's Fanzine Lending Library lost over 100 zines in a theft after DSV 1 in Newark on Sunday, January 31. The Library, which was on display in the convention suite at DSV 1, had been loaded in Karlene Hartel's van, which was stolen from the hotel parking lot while Karlene and others were at the post-con staff party. Karlene and her brother Louis and two other club members, Linda Anne Lineaweaver and Dorothy Case, also lost their personal possessions. The van was quickly recovered with most of the Library intact. The Library was not present at the February Assembly. For more information, read Linda Anne's Library Notes on page seven.

Sophie Aldred Confirmed for Relaxicon on May 1

Sophie Aldred, new Companion Ace on *Doctor Who,* has been confirmed as the guest for Relaxicon I, which will be held in Trenton on Sunday, May 1. The convention's promoter has received a letter from producer John Nathan-Turner confirming that Aldred will not be scheduled for filming on the 25th Season of *Doctor Who* during the weekend of Relaxicon. Her schedule is subject to change at any time, but as of now she will be at the convention. Relaxicon will be at the Trenton War Memorial Auditorium. Tickets are $12.50 in advance, $15 at the door. Plans are already being made, subject to the success of Relaxicon I, for Relaxicon II to be held in the area sometime in the fall. All profits will be donated to Ethiopian famine relief. Tickets will be available from Ticketron. To order by mail, write Relaxicon I, PO Box 3373, Bethlehm, PA 18017. Enclose a SASE. Make all checks payable to Varosian Productions. Be sure and mention where you heard of the convention.

The local clubs will be providing programming. We will be holding a panel on the future of Doctor Who. If you'd like to be on the panel, contact the High Council.

Editorials

Thanks for the Con Suite!

As everyone knows by now, Karlene Hartel, who coordinated the con suite at DSV 1, lost many of her personal possessions at DSV 1 when her van was stolen from the hotel parking lot. Karlene had worked hard all weekend running the after-hours con suite in her own rooms, and helping with the daytime suite down on the convention floor. To Karlene, and to everyone else who helped with the Con Suite, we'd like to offer our deepest thanks: you did it! Although a lot of people put in time in the suite, the following really worked hard: Barbara Leflar Jackson, Pat Betz, Linda Anne Lineaweaver, Judith Louvis, Susan Conner, Carol Bede, Yalita Bennett, Greg Zsidisin, and Lisa Rogers. Thanks, you done us all real proud.

DSV Two, Anybody?

Everyone who was at DSV 1 came away with one question: When is DSV 2? Obviously, that's the perfect convention, one which leaves all of us craving for more. DSV 1 was one of the nicest cons we've ever been to; it all seemed to run very smoothly, the guests weren't overworked, the fan panels were fun, and like all cons, it had a few moments that will remain forever fresh in the memories of all who were there: the Friday night party, when Paul Darrow's microphone cable got caught in the Blakes 7 10th Birthday cake, leading to the following popular button the next day: "Avon stood over the cake, microphone frosting in his hand;" the Saturday art auction, which lasted over six hours!; poor Janet Lees-Price (Mrs. Darrow) being endlessly tortured by Paul and Michael Keating over her walk-on role as Klyn in the episode "Blake;" and Paul's reading from his novel about Avon, which is due out sometime later this year. Our gratitude to all the guests, and to the con committee for giving us these indelible memories.

So we all want another one, right? Unfortunately, the con organizers are weary and wary of trying it again. What can we do? We can write desperate letters begging and pleading that they give us DSV 2. The address is Decima Productions, PO Box 7926, FDR Station, New York, NY 10150. Along with your importuning, let them know how much you enjoyed DSV 1.

The Future History of *The Renegade*

Last month's *Renegade* was a special issue for DSV 1. We can't do a twelve-pager every month. We also can't concentrate exclusively on Blakes 7 every month. Most of our members like both Doctor Who and Blakes 7, but we know that some of you greatly prefer one or the other. We hope to strike a reasonable balance in our coverage, but what we print is dependent on what we get. The best way to satisfy all of you is for you to submit articles, artwork, photos, etc., on both Doctor Who and Blakes 7. That way, we'll be able to treat both shows fairly, and none of you will get frustrated because our coverage is uneven. For months, we've been asking for more participation in the *Renegade,* and it's finally paying off. We are getting more submissions now, which is great. It's *your* newsletter, after all; the more you contribute, the better it'll be.

The High Council

Tom Beck, 216 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08540, 609-921-8148; Cathy Boudreau, 412 Columbus Avenue, Tuckahoe, NY 10707, 914-337-1621; Linda Anne Lineaweaver, 4D8 Arbor Green, Beverly, NJ 08010, 609-877-3464; Maureen Mulholland, 1203 Noreen Drive, Burlington Township, NJ 08016, 609-386-6813; Kim Elaine Neighbor, 717 Trumbull Avenue, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, 609-396-2858.

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Letters to *The Renegade*

Dear Prydonians:

I just received the February *Renegade* and think "Pounds-Off Pledges" is a marvelous idea! I'd like to set the record straight on a couple of points, however. I realize that the Doctor Who Calendar has listed Colin's birthday as June 17, but no one including Colin seems to konw why; he says he was born on June 8. Also, your statement that *The Sun* newspaper donated £100 to SIDS research for each pound Colin lost is only half correct. Half of the £5000 from *The Sun* was indeed contributed to The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, but the other half went to another of Colin's favorite charities, the Aylesbury Wildlife Fund.

Good luck with your fundraising!

Laurie Yadon, Coordinator,
The Friends of Tom and Colin Baker

Thanks, Laurie. Colin should be flattered that we listed him as younger than he really is! (HHOK.) As to whatever money we raise, I think we'll just give it all to the New Jersey SIDS research foundation, as I doubt the Aylesbury Wildlife Fund has a New Jersey branch.

Along with the joking, let's once again recommend The Friends of Tom and Colin Baker for any fan of these actors. Laurie does an excellent quarterly newsletter, Doubletalk. It's well worth the $10 yearly dues. For information, send a SASE to FoTaCB, PO Box 8363, Stanford, CA 94309.

Dear Prydonians:

Thanks you for doing such a great job with the con suite at DSV 1. I have heard from many attendees, and all of them said what a good time they had and y'all sure helped a great deal with your generosity. Once again, thanks!

Heather Nachmnan, Department Head,
Autographs and Photographs

Dear Prydonians:

DSV 1 is now over and we think everyone will agree that it was very, very successful. Our success, in no small measure, was due to the help we received from every corner. We would, personally, like to take this opportunity to thank The Prydonians of

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TARDIS Talk

Fourth Birthday Party Set for March 26 in Central Jersey

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Shopping Center and a Mobil station on your right and the Nelson's Corner Shopping Center on your left. Continue south to the next traffic light, which is the intersection of Raider Road and Route 206. Turn right onto Raider. Take the first left onto Greenfields. Continue to the second right, which leads into a large parking area. This is next to the Clubhouse.

From south of Belle Mead on 206: the clubhouse is about 9 miles north of Princeton. Once you're out of Princeton, look for the following landmarks: you will pass Baker Pontiac on your right, then Montgomery Township Municipal Building on your right, then the Belle Mead Garage (Chrysler-Plymouth) on your left, then the Belle Mead Post Office on your left. At the next light, turn left onto Raider Boulevard and follow the above directions.

We would all welcome food, drink, and entertainment. If you've never been to a club event, try to make it to the party. We'll have some special things planned that you don't want to miss! Hope to see you there.

Happy Birthday to us!

Who's 7 Will Start in March

Who's 7, the new Doctor Who/Blakes 7 "apa" (amateur publishing alliance) now has 12 members. The first issue is planned for late March. An apa is a regular collection of members' contributions, compiled and distributed to each member for them to comment on in future issues. *Who's 7* will be bimonthly, with a minimum contribution of four pages every two issues. There is a $5 entry fee, and copying and postage charges will also be assessed. If you'd like to join, or if you want more information, send a legal SASE to Tom Beck, 216 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08540.

Summer Picnic set for July 31

The club's annual summer picnic will be held at Mercer County Park East Picnic Ground, on Sunday, July 31, from 10 am to 7 pm. This was the site of last year's picnic. We will have full directions in future *Renegades.* Previous picnics were combined with the club's birthday party. This year, we have decided to separate the two events, so as to have the birthday party at a time closer to the club's actual birthday (which is in late March or early April) and so that the picnic can be held in warm weather.

For information on the club's Fourth Birthday Party, which will be held on March 26, see the article on page one.

Pledges Off Pounds Continues; Colin's 7 Start Their Diets

Pledges Off Pounds (PoP), our effort to raise money for research against SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), is well under way. PoP is in honour of Colin Baker, who last year lost 50 pounds and raised £2500 for British SIDS research (Colin and his wife Marion lost their first child to SIDS). Our seven volunteers, known as "Colin's 7," began their diets on February 1. We are asking for you to sponsor one or more of them, offering to donate a set sum for each pound they lose by May 31. We will present the money to the New Jersey Chapter of the National Sudden Infant Death Syndrome in June for Colin's Birthday. "Colin's 7" are Tom Beck, Pat Betz, Cathy Boudreau, Dorothy Case, Julie Florez, Cindy Henry, and Karlene Hartel. You can pledge so much per pound (and even put a maximum limit on it), or a set amount, regardless of how much "your" dieter loses. All donations are tax-deductible. Pledge forms are available at all club functions and at any convention where the club has a table. To make a pledge, or for more information, call Dorothy Case at 6090-392-6204 or write her at 250 Morris Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08611.

Also, if pledged before February, the records were lost in the DSV 1 theft of our Library. Please call Dorothy to repledge.

Scorpio VI Selling Out Fast; Scorpio Flight II Set

Scorpio VI, the annual Blakes 7 superconvention, is close to selling out. This year's con will be August 5–7 at the Hyatt Oak Brook Hotel in Oakbrook, Illinois, near Chicago. No guests have been announced yet, but they usually have a number of members of the Blakes 7 cast. Tickets are $40. To order (make check payable to Nancy Kolar), write Scorpio VI, PO Box 397, Midlothian, IL 60445.

Our group flight, Scorpio Flight II, has been set. We will leaving Thursday, August 4, from Philadelphia International Airport, and returning on Monday, August 8. For information, call Linda Anne Lineaweaver at 609-877-3464.

ICON VII Invites Ainley

ICON VII will be held April 15–17 at SUNY Stony Brook on Long Island, New York. Anthony Ainley, the Master on *Doctor Who,* has been invited, along with other guests, including Harlan Ellison and Hal Clement, and other media stars . Tickets are $16 until March 25. Write ICON, PO Box 550, Stony Brook, NY 11790. Enclose a SASE.

Will Blakes 7 Ever Be Revived?

An interview with

[This interview was conducted on January 17 by Tom Beck. Part 1 ran in the February Renegade. We'd like to thank Terry for his cooperation.]

Q. How many scripts had you written by the time the first story went before the cameras?
A. Maybe six, I'm not absolutely sure of this. I couldn't tell you for sure, probably six or seven.
Q. Did you change any of the later scripts because of the way Avon was developing in the actual shooting of the early stories?
A. Yes, very much so. Very much. As soon as I saw the initial development of this character I wanted to make more of him. He was obviously brilliant right from the start. I started to emphasize him a good deal more.
Q. Do you remember anything specific about that?
A. No, I don't. I think probably that I would have made some changes, or I would have called Chris Boucher and said, "Let's give him a little more here."
Q. By the time they decided to bring it back for the fourth season you were no longer in Britain. David Maloney was no longer with the show, they had a new producer. Did you have any say in the appointment of Vere Lorrimer?
A. Vere came out to Hollywood to see me to talk about the shape of the fourth season. Vere is a tremendous enthusiast, he's enormously inventive, nothing is too much trouble. He went back with fairly good ideas about how we wanted the season to progress. The fact that it didn't is not his fault, particularly. You've got to have someone strong to watch over it. It could have been me.
Q. Were you asked to write any of the scripts for the fourth series?
A. Yeah, it was my choice. I just didn't want to, it's too far away, you can't do it from a six-thousand-mile range, you can't be there to talk about it.
Q. How did you feel about it when the BBC decided to end the program and the way they decided to end the series? The decision not to do any more period, and then the actual way they ended it.
A. I was horrified by the episode "Blake." You see, they had not sent me that script. Understandable, by the time they were ready to shoot I'm sure it was already too late. My agent called me and said we've got trouble with the show, I'm bringing out an episode to show you. So he brought a tape out for me to see the ending. He was talking of suing the BBC. Having my characters killed off without consultation, you see. I finally figured out that that's the way it is, let it be. I was not happy about it. I thought they had acted badly, that I should have known about that. But they very effectively ended the series with that.
Q. Is that why you've indicated in other situations that you're not particularly fond of Chris Boucher?
A. Yes, I think that's right. I will say this for him, that I think he worked tremendously hard, he got very little of the credit, I took all the credit. And he worked long and hard on the show. I think his own personal political views began to be seen in the show. It would be wrong for me to criticize him other than in the sense that I was not entirely happy with the things that happened. But if I'd cared enough, or if I'd had the strength and energy enough, I should have been there to protect the show. It was not enough to blame other people. I am the one to blame. Anything that happened on that show is my fault because I wasn't there and I didn't bother enough about it. I will not really blame anybody for any failings of that show, for good episodes or bad, other than myself. I'm the one who the rap should come to.
Q. That's really interesting. It says worlds about the nature of TV as a collaborative medium. Did you ever think of writing a play or a novel where it would be mostly your own efforts rather than working with other people?
A. Oh, I have. I wrote a novel called Rebecca's World. Indeed have been engaged recently in writing half-heartedly another novel. But the collaborations are wonderful. The ego of the man who says I can do it all is crazy, he's absolutely crazy. You can't do it all. It's a very tough medium to stay in with. You've got so many people contributing their talents. I think we had a lot very fine talents contributing to *Blakes 7.* I can't take the credit for it all. They must too. Some of those characters, some of those creative people, that you fall out with them occasionally, is not surprising.
Q. There's a lot of egos involved, very strong egos.
A. Oh, absolutely, you bet.
Q. Did you ever see the actors do things that you really didn't like, but found that, because they'd done it you couldn't change and go back?
A. Oh yeah, I think in almost every episode you would see something, you would say, "No, that's not what I meant," or "I would have done that differently." But, you know, this is where you really have to settle for it, you really have to say, "Hey they're people up there doing their thing, I've done mine, I've written the script, now the other people have to be given a chance." Yes, you do have to back away from it.
Q. Of course, a lot of wonderful things that you didn't expect come out of that, also.
A. Absolutely, oh yeah, it's a two-way street, believe me. Things that I've never seen and could never imagine come out, and so, yeah, I get a good trade-off that way.
Q. Of all the scripts you wrote for *Blakes 7,* which one or ones were your particular favorites? You liked the most or you felt worked the best.
A. I think it was called "Mission to Destiny." I enjoyed that one very much. I'd actually like to rework that script one day into a fully fledged hour-and-a-half movie. Because it was such fun to do in the context of a science fiction show, and it really was a good old fashioned murder. I think mine was the first as it were murder in space. I know they've done one since.
Q. Of the other writers who worked on *Blakes 7,* were there any that you particularly liked their work?
A. My answer is going to sound so terrible. No, is the answer, and I can't apologize for that, other than to say that they just didn't do it the way I might have done it. That's all.
Q. Were there any story lines that you would have liked to have written for Blakes 7 but never got around to, or it didn't fit in, or a script you started and didn't work?
A. I was so pushed for stories by that time that any idea that came up I would *make* work. Finding ideas wasn't easy, it was a tough series to find ideas for. I think that's evidenced a lot in some of the later shows.

"Well, I'll Never Say Never"

Terry Nation, Part 2

You see, I wanted to give it this serial quality all the time, to develop the characters serial-wise, to develop the stories serial-wise. So in a way, when other writers came onto the show, they couldn't have the big picture in their heads that I had in mine. And I couldn't necessarily verbalize what that big picture was. It was, as much as anything, a feeling for the show, I had an emotional feeling for the show, and I knew what was right and what was wrong and how it should develop and go on.

Q. Can you verbalize it now?

A. No, it's a thing that happens with all my shows. I have a feeling for the whole, for the overall. That the individual episodes are not so important as getting to the entire big picture. So the only way you can do this is by instinct. I rely a good deal on instinct. It's like saying to the guy who's going to paint the Mona Lisa, "Okay, you're going to paint a picture of a woman, now tell me about it. What have you got in mind?" You can't, you've got a vision somewhere, and I guess my vision was one that I couldn't articulate but I could feel and know instinctively whether elements were right or wrong.

Q. One of the things we noticed last year and one of the things we cited you for in the *Renegade* was the Liar's Panel [See January issue]. I want a couple of answers as to how you thought up the Liar's Panel, the real answer and then a Liar's Panel answer. Did you do this as a reaction to being a frustrated stand-up comedian?

A. The truthful answer is no, I did it out of a sense of having gone to so many conventions and getting the same questions, I was just trying to find new ways of answering them. The classic one that comes up all the time, "How did you think of the Daleks?" You trot out the same old answer time and time again. I thought it would be fun to actually to give a wrong answer, to give lies. I love it.

Q. You were a very good sport about our own citation of you in the *Renegade.*

A. I loved it. I must say to now have the reputation of America's Number One Liar is quite a proud moment.

Q. Blakes 7 represents a very specific and well thought out view of the evolution of human history. One of the reasons people respond to it so much is because while we don't like the way humanity has developed, we see it as a very possible future and we like the fact that there are still people who are fighting it. What is your current view of the way humanity might be fifty or a hundred or five hundred years from now?

A. I have the blackest view of what the future is, and I think that's almost always reflected in my work. I have a very dark dark view of the future of man. I believe he has already started his self-destruction. I'm not going to elaborate on that, it's much too dark and miserable a thought.

Q. So you think we might not even get as far as the period in which Blakes 7 is set?

A. I'm sure we won't.

Q. How would you answer critics who dislike *Blakes 7* because they say it's too bleak, that none of the characters are really heroic, they're all in one way or another damaged or defective. The Federation is so villainous, that they just find it difficult to watch, or the fact that the Federation doesn't seem ever to lose.

A. I can only say in view of that criticism that it's the nicest and most flattering thing I could hear. That my people are flawed and ordinary, normal and subject to all the failings of Man, is precisely what I wanted them to be. That we are up against a barbaric system of government throughout the world seems to me absolutely true as well. And that our only hope is we, all we flawed people, can go on resisting.

Q. You would almost put the US government in the same category as the Federation.

A. No, because I think the American people thus far are sensible enough to resist letting that happen. But there always are the dangers there. We saw it this year in the Iran-Contra scandal. The law was taken out of the hand of the people. That's all we have to do. In a way *Blakes 7* is saying, simply, "Resist, fight back, because it is worthwhile doing it." But do it through the system, I don't say necessarily become terrorists.

Q. I have three rather silly questions about *Blakes 7.* Whose idea was all the one-word titles?

A. I don't think it was anybody's idea. I tended it go to one-word titles. But I don't think that was a policy.

Q. You mean even later on, when it became almost the rule as opposed to just an occasional thing, nobody just decided that they were going to keep it up?

A. Well, nobody ever told me if they did.

Q. An item of speculation among fans is, when we first see Avon on the *London,* he's reading a card. What was on the card?

A. I've always said it was a picture of a dirty movie. But Paul maintains it was something to do with the ship. Must think of a funnier answer, if I can.

Q. I heard that you have several characters in a Doctor Who script and in Blake named Tarrant and that you did that because you had a friend named Tarrant.

A. That's absolutely true. Man in England called Graham Tarrant, who was a great buddy of mine, and we did some things together in publishing. I thought it would be amusing, I put him in a Dalek show, and he quite liked the idea. So then I kept on using the name to please him.

Q. What are you working on now?

A. I have been working on a novel, it's a novel I have long wanted to do. It's a kind of chase story I suppose. It starts off in the northeastern United States and ends up here in California. However, I have put it aside. I've just finished reading a book called "Bonfire of the Vanities" by Tom Wolfe, which is the most intimidating thing I've ever read, it is so wonderful and so marvelous and so stunningly well written, the plot of it. I sit back in awe to think that a guy can write a novel like this, and that has slowed me down, my admiration for the man.

Q. What has been your work schedule as a professional writer, and how has it changed and developed?

A. Oh, I have always been a get up in the morning early and get to a desk and stay there until round about six in the evening, and within that time, hopefully, write something. Otherwise, just stare at the paper, or walk around the room, or look at a book, but never leave the room. I could never, for instance, go to a movie, even if I knew the day was going to be nonproductive. That would seem to me highly immoral, to leave the post, as it were.

Q. On a good day, how much do you get done?

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More Talk with Terry Nation

continued from page five

A. On a good day, in the past, I could write a half-hour show in a day, which I did with the Daleks, the early Daleks I used to do them one a day. Now, if I got eight or ten pages of a screenplay done, that's a very good day.

Q. What are the differences between writing for the US and writing for Britain?

A. I believe that American television demands more sentiment than I've ever been able to happily give. There's always got to be a moment where somebody pats a dog or smiles at a child or has some brave words about something. I find this very hard to do, I really don't enjoy that because I think it's fake and false. I can find it for you in any movie, any piece of American television I can point out to you the sentimental moments. I don't like them. Otherwise, it's just writing.

Q. But there's no difference in the time for preparation, or the amount you can spend, that sort of thing?

A. Not really, you kind of know that from your early moments. They always want it tomorrow, because there's always that desperate rush. You kind of instinctively know what your budget's going to be, what television is capable of, so you write within those limits just naturally, I guess. I find there are a great many more fingers in the pie, so many more opinions to listen to. If I were working on MacGyver I would have thre senior producers with views of their own, I would have Paramount people with views of their own, and I would have network people with views of their own. So all of those elements would be tampering with the scripts. That I didn't have with Blakes 7. I had a tremendous opportunity just to write what I wanted, knowing that I'd have to write within certain budgetary constraints. But really, nobody was tampering with it.

Q. How long were you with MacGyver? Did you create that show?

A. No I didn't. I was hired to go on and be a producer on it. I was on it about six months.

Q. How many episodes did you make?

A. I was there for about the first twelve.

Q. Did you write any of the scripts?

A. No, I did some rewriting, because the scripts were brought in. We were a kind of team, we were the staff writers.

Q. But all the scripts were from freelancers.

A. Pretty well.

Q. Were you pleased with the way the show developed?

A. No, no I wasn't.

Q. What would you have done differently if you could have?

A. I would have cancelled the show. Although it's still there, it's still being moderately successful, but I didn't like it.

Q. What are you working on now?

Q. Back at Scorpio you said you were writing on a TV show set on a frontier planet. Has that been shelved?

A. No, it's still in there with a shot. At the moment all the doors to the television networks are closed, they're not listening to pitches at the moment. But comes the new season, which will be in a few weeks' time, we'll be out there, we'll pitch that story again.

Q. Could you tell us a little bit about it?

A. No I couldn't, really, it would be such a long-winded thing. I will tell you just this, a movie I always loved was Gunga Din, with Cary Grant. This was about some guys who were out on the Northwest Frontier and the adventures they have against tremendous odds. Well, I thought, how nice it would be if we could do that same thing in space, and so do Gunga Din in space, three guys who are buddies, set on some frontier planet. That's kind of the beginning of it.

Q. I've heard some rumors that I'd just like to get your reaction to. We heard, this is just a wild rumor, that the BBC might be reviving *Blakes 7* with John Nathan-Turner, the producer of *Doctor Who,* as the producer. Is that true?

A. It's my worst nightmare come true. No it's not. Certainly, nobody has ever even hinted at that.

Q. As I said, it was a wild rumor. Also, that you would be writing a Dalek story for the next season of *Doctor Who.*

A. No, I'll tell you the truth about that one. Nathan-Turner has asked my agent for permission to do one and has said he was sending me the storyline, and I've not yet received that. My first reaction was to say no, I don't want anybody else writing another Dalek series. My agent in England said, listen, this is for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, and maybe the Daleks ought to be represented there. So, yes, they have asked for one, but it's got no further than that.

Q. But you won't be doing it yourself.

A. No.

Q. People ask you this all the time. Is there any possibility that *Blakes 7* will ever be revived?

A. Well, you know, it's a little like the James Bond title, never say never again. I don't know. I despair on occasions, because we know it has been a successful show, it was successful in England. But maybe new management has come in and they don't want to take over something that was left behind. I don't have any information on that. I would love to think it would one day happen.

Q. Would you want to be involved with it?

A. Yeah, yes I would, I'd certainly like to be in on those initial stages.

Q. Would you do it even if it meant you had to move back to England for awhile?

A. I'd need to know more of the circumstances. Moving back to England would be a huge operation for me.

Q. We heard another rumor that you were about to completely reacquire all the rights to *Blakes 7,* that the BBC's options were about to lapse. Is that not true?

A. That is true. My agent has something he wants to acquire from BBC, and until he works out his deal, we won't let those rights exist again.

Q. So it is possible that you could get the rights to Blake and do it on your own if you wanted.

A. I could always have done that anyway. What's called the format rights are invested in me. So, yes, I could do *Blakes 7* anyway.

Q. Forgive me, this isn't my question, but a lot of people are going to ask, why haven't you?

A. Because I believe that show should be made in England.

Q. And it would difficult for you to get a production mounted over there from over here.

A. Yeah, there's a quality about that show that says BBC on it, in a funny way. For all the things that the BBC are bad at, there's a quality about that show, they gave us the freedom to do what we wanted to do. I would like to see it done by the BBC because they are basically a very sound operation. I believe it belongs at the BBC.

Q. So you would not want to do it even in Britain with an independent company?

A. It's just what I said, I'll never say never.

Q. At the moment, you're not working on it?

A. Absolutely not.

[Part 3 of this interview will be run in the April Renegade]

Write for *The Renegade!*

Notes from the Library

Theft at DSV Won't Daunt Library

by Linda Anne Lineaweaver, Librarian

The Prydonian Fanzine Library was on display and available for reading each day in the Con Suite at DSV 1. We wanted to share the Library with members who would not ordinarily get a chance to see it and with members who see it only a little at a time, through the mail. Comfortable couches in one corner were an added enticement leading to some con–goers curling up for hours at a time with a good zine.

Its popularity made worthwhile the added work of watching over the library and lugging it back and forth each day (all con suite workers are to be commended for their diligence and fortitude). However, disaster struck Sunday evening. Karlene Hartel and her brother Louis had volunteered their van to transport the Library, the con suite supplies, Dorothy Case, and myself. Early Sunday evening, everything was packed in the van so that we could leave after the staff party. A little later Louis informed the rest of us that the van was missing. The police were notified and, luckily, the van was quickly found in Newark and returned to the hotel. Unfortunately, it had been vandalized. Besides the personal property each of us lost, 107 fanzines were gone, 22 of them newly purchased at DSV 1.

Although the loss of a major part of the Library (almost one fourth) is very disheartening, I am determined that we will rebuild and that the Library will be bigger and better than ever. There are many good conventions coming up this year, and I will try to get to as many as I can. Also, if anyone knows of people reducing the size of their personal collections, please ask them to consider our Library as a new home for any zines they may want to sell or donate. They will be greatly appreciated and well read by our enthusiastic membership, which has grown now to 49.

It has also been suggested that we consider accepting zines from genres other than Doctor Who and Blakes 7, with the idea that these could be sold, thus generating revenue for the purchase of DW and B7 zines. Alternatively, members may want to include other genres, such as Star Trek, in the Library. I am open to suggestions from the Library's members. Let me know your wishes in this matter.

A new list of the Library's collection will be available soon and will be sent to all postal members. The Library itself should be open to borrowing by the March Assembly. The monthly charge per zine is being raised to 50¢, but the fee to join the Library is still $10 or Doctor Who and/or Blakes 7 zines worth $10 or more. For more information, send a SASE to me, Linda Anne Lineaweaver, at 4D8 Arbor Green, Beverly, NJ 08010.

More Letters

continued from page two

Prynceton for all their support, to thank all of the individuals who volunteered on the Helper Squad, and for all of you who helped to take care of the Con Suite. While we were unable to personally visit the suite, we did hear many good things about it.

Thank you all very, very much. We couldn't have managed without you!

Jude Wilson and Pat Nussman,
Co-Heads, Helper Squad

We'd like to thank all of you for putting on such a wonderful convention. Anything we could do to help was only what we're in business for. The con suite was a neat place, wasn't it?

Orac's Joke File

If someone offers you Shadow, just say no!

Servalan was nothing to Sleer at

Avon wore studded diapers

Prydonian Renegade Competition

Competition Number 10

The Master's Disguise-arama

Make the Companions Scream!

Journey thru K9

Above, attractions at the Doctor Who World theme park. Competitors are invited to think up other rides, games, or attractions for the park.

Competition rules: All entries must be typewritten or legibly handwritten. Only one entry per member (up to three rides). Send to Competition Number 10, Prydonian Renegade, PO Box 3194, Princeton, NJ 08543-3194. Deadline is March 26. Editor's decisions are final and all entries become the property of the club. First Prize: Two months' membership in The Prydonians. Second Prize: one month's membership. First- and second-place winners and honourable mentions will be published in the April issue.

Results of Competition 9, in which you were asked for pilots Terry Nation wrote before *Blakes 7.*

First Prize:
My Mother, the Liberator
DSV 1, Where Are You?
I Dream of Jenna
Tony Lay, Bronx, NY

Second Prize:
The blAke Team
The Avongers
Jeff Hildebrand, Penn Wynne, PA

Honorable Mentions:
Murder, Sleer Wrote
What's My Revolution?
Streets of Gauda Prime
Karel Siniger, Pennington, NJ

Beauty and the Blake
Designing Women, Sleer and Servalan
Who's the Boss, Blake or Avon?
Marilyn J. Hanson, Ronkonkoma, NY

Lionheart's "Friends of Doctor Who" Takes Off

According to the National Right To Time Travel Association, Lionheart's new "Friends of Doctor Who" has received 2,000 replies to its initial mailing about establishing a new national Doctor Who club. There is no word if Lionheart will consider this sufficient to go ahead with their plans. If you're interested in the club, which will cost $5 annually for a quarterly newsletter, write Lionheart at PO Box 2030, Media, PA 19063. Tell them where you heard of the Friends.

DWFCA Goes Semi-Annual

The Doctor Who Fan Club of America (DWFCA) is changing its publication schedule of the *Whovian Times* to twice a year instead of quarterly. Membership will still be for four issues. The new issue, number 17, features Sylvester McCoy on the cover.

Time Winds 18 and 19 Available

The club is selling *Time Winds* 18 and 19, the latest issues in this long-running series of Doctor Who fanzines, for its editor, member Susan Garrett. Eighteen has stories by three club members; number 19 has a wonderful cover featuring all the Doctors. They are $11 and $10, respectively, at all club functions and any conventions we are working. Blow with the time winds!

Scarf Raffle Won

We held the drawing in our scarf raffle at DSV 1 on Sunday, January 31. Terry Nation did the honors, pulling out the lucky winner's name. He is Doug Grande of Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. Doug wins the two scarves, including the two-foot-long one. The club raised almost $200 in the raffle.

Call the TARDIS

Call the TARDIS (300–2400 baud), one of New Jersey's largest computer boards, at 609-448-1361. To get access to our club section (# 13), leave e-mail for Tom Beck.

Blakes 7 Trivia

The Federation

1. What did they call Senior Federation General Samor?
2. What was the Stock Equalization Act?
3. How many Federation ships fought the Andromedans?
4. Which young Federation officer was Servalan's "old friend"?
5. What post did Bercol hold?
6. What was the Federation going to do to Maryatt's family?
7. What was the Forbidden Zone?
8. How did the Federation scheme to take over Lindor?
9. Who represented the Federation on Horizon?
10. What was the CEC?

—*Answers next month*

Answers to February's Quiz:
1. 100 million credits. 2. Kasabi. 3. To predict Coser's acts. 4. Sarron. 5. Don Keller. 6. Gedden. 7. To list him as dead. 8. An android she used to disrupt the Teal-Vandor Convention. 9. During the Andromedan invasion. 10. One week.

The Prydonians of Prynceton
PO Box 3194
Princeton, NJ 08543-3194
(Note New Address!)

Karen and Scott 10/88
Avenue
Audubon, NJ 08106

Warning! If your address label is printed in *green*, your membership expires at the end of next month.

If your address label is printed in *red*, your membership expires with this issue. This will be your last issue of *The Renegade* unless you renew your dues by the end of this month.

Dated Material—*Please Rush!*